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The Medical Officer of Health's

ANNUAL REPORT

for

Eastry Rural District

1957

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
ANNUAL REPORT
for
EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT
1957

IN OFFICE

Chairman of the Council	-	-	-	-	-	A. E. Markwick, Esq., F.R.S.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	-	-				Councillor W. P. Farrington
Clerk to the Council	-	-	-	-	-	Chas. Evans, Esq., M.B.E.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	-	-	-		W. H. Sayers, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Surveyor	-	-	-	-	-	R. J. Meacher, A.I.A.A., M.R.S.I.

To the Chairman and Members of Eastry
Rural District Council

- - - - -

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I present the Annual Report covering the year 1957. The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which was presented to you early in the year is to be read with it.

It has been usual to present a series of tabular statistics, and one is well aware of the indigestible quality of such matter. For this year an attempt will be made to give you it in plain English as an introduction to the tabulations, instead of interlacing the matter with comment.

The duties of a medical officer of health could not be carried out without the help and co-operation of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the other chief officers, and to Mr. Sayers my thanks are especially expressed. My awareness of local situations endangering or concerned with the public's health are dependent not only on my own observations or matters notified to me, but to the activity of the Public Health Inspectors who call my attention to any such matters of importance.

Births: The birth rate for our district is a lively one. On the basis of the national rate of 16.1 births per 1,000 we could have expected 387 births, but the actual number was 396 giving a birth rate of 16.47 per 1,000 population. The population has an elderly non-reproductive element on the basis of whom the Registrar General advises that for true comparison we should multiply our number by 1.18. On this basis our comparable birth rate would be 19.42 per 1,000 and if our local population had the same make up as the national population and the reproductive element as lively as at present, we should have had 467 births in the year.

Population: The population dropped by 350 in total to 24,050, not from any change in boundaries or area which remains at 54,276 acres. This was probably due to the movements of population connected with Service establishments. As the calculation is based on information available only to the Registrar General it is not a figure on which to comment, other than to say that we have lost in 1957 what was gained in 1956.

Deaths: We had 388 deaths during the year, 210 male, 178 female. This showed a drop of 35 from the 1956 figure due entirely to a reduction in female deaths. Such a change could be accounted for by a re-arrangement of hospital provision of which we have two large units. On the bare figures we had a death rate of 16.13 per 1,000 population compared to 11.5 for England & Wales, but correcting by applying the R.G. Comparability Factor the local rate becomes 9.84 per 1,000.

Infant Deaths: Twelve of these deaths were in Infants under 1 year; seven of the 12 being under the age of 1 week. A calculation known as perinatal mortality is made by applying the number of stillbirths and deaths under 1 week to the total of live and stillbirths as an indication of the birth risks to infants. As there were 11 stillbirths our Perinatal Mortality rate was 43 per 1,000 live and stillbirths while the figure for England & Wales was 36.2. The death rate for all infants under 1 year was 30 per 1,000 live births against 23.1 for England & Wales. What were the causes of that higher than national level of infant deaths? Prematurity accounted for 3. Abnormality in the baby (congenital) accounted for 3 of whom 2 lived for over a month despite the defect. One resulted from a blood disease of the newborn, one from a birth injury and one from neglect at birth. Three, all 8 weeks and over died from infection of the respiratory system, one of them from acute laryngo-tracheitis, a dangerous and insidious infection about which much is yet to be learned.

Causes of Other Deaths: The tabulation of death causes follows the normal pattern as will be seen by the comparison with 1956 figures. Two changes warrant comment: - One is the drop in suicides which has occurred over the last three years; 6 in 1955, 3 in 1956 and only 1 in 1957. Perhaps the answer is in the solace of the tobacco weed. Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus show a further rise; 9 in each of the three years to 1955, 13 in 1956 and 15 in 1957, and, gentlemen, 14 of these were male deaths.

Infectious Diseases: The notifiable diseases experienced during the year included a wave of MEASLES at its height in the first quarter and dying out during the summer. This was the normal biennial wave and it was concentrated in the 2 - 6 age groups. WHOOPING COUGH is now seen to have a mid-summer and third quarter incidence and involves the same age groups as measles. There was more of it than in either of the two previous years (71 to 28 in 1956 and 51 in 1955) but it did not reach epidemic proportions. SCARLET FEVER, which is not an infectious entity in itself but has to be considered as an indicator of the prevalence of streptococcal infection of an invasive type, was more prevalent than in recent years although this experience was not confined to this district. Within the district the Ash area

had the most apparent prevalence (13 out of 23 cases) spread throughout the year in little groups of cases. No other cause than case to case spread could be found. DYSENTERY showed no recurrence after the AYLESHAM prevalence of the summer of 1956, but the non-notifiable illness of EPIDEMIC NAUSEA affected the village of Nonington striking at the primary school just at the end of the Autumn term when Christmas festivities were in preparation. Investigations have not revealed any cause of this ailment and for want of other explanation one thinks in terms of a virus.

No cases of FOOD POISONING were notified but two cases of illness which had all the symptoms of food poisoning occurred in male members of separate families in a shared house in Aylesham, who had been on the same outing to a darts match in a Canterbury public house. The evidence of having consumed pies at the public house three hours before the onset of illness led to the investigation, as a complaint was made about the pies. C. Welchii was isolated from the stools of both patients and as food poisoning due to this cause takes at least 10 - 12 hours to develop, the investigation was carried forward in time. The home food came from a common source but was cooked separately. No specimens were available of food consumed prior to onset, and any identification of source would have been pure surmise.

POLIOMYELITIS occurred in the Minster area from August onwards with one death, always a tragic happening but particularly so in a young adult male. Out of the 7 cases in the district four were adults, and there was evidence of a spread through male agricultural engineering contacts affecting other districts in East Kent. It was suspected but could not be proved that the congregation at a ploughing match just when Asian 'flu was becoming prevalent may have been the means of spread. Spread under the guise of influenza was suspected elsewhere at that time. The term infantile paralysis is now quite out of date. One case was a second attack, which illustrates the need for the vaccination of children who have had a previous attack, as there are three separate types of the virus.

TUBERCULOSIS: There was a slight fall in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, by reason of a fall in female cases from 11 to 6. The number of male cases rose from 9 to 12. The number of male cases on the register of pulmonary tuberculosis has increased in two years from 112 in 1955 to 129 in 1957; but this is as the result of earlier diagnosis through the Mass Radiography Unit surveys and represents an improved situation. There is now no delay in getting patients into hospital for treatment and a greatly improved prospect of recovery to full employability. The increase in notified male pulmonary cases occurred in the "over 45" group: It is in the 45 - 65 age groups of men that an advance could be made in case finding. This age group includes the chronic bronchitis cases, the smokers' coughs, the scorners

of this new fangled Xray business and the men who tolerate chest complaints with the endurance of those who have known worse and have plenty of other things to worry about. If we could get every man over 45 with a cough, or chronic debility, or frequent colds or chestiness, to go through the M.R. Unit we would identify the few persons who quite innocently are the source of infection to the younger generation. The stress of middle age seems able to break down some hidden sealed off lesion of which such cases are unaware and to add to another chest condition the recurrence of tuberculosis.

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit carried out a public survey in Aylesham and Eastry Hospital. The Aylesham survey was supported in a most wholehearted manner by Councillor Hill and the Parish Council. They took over the publicity and general public relations side of the survey with an exhilarating enthusiasm, using all kinds of ideas to whip up the response including door to door canvassing, lapel badges and prizes.

The Survey results are as follows:-

	<u>Aylesham:</u>	<u>Eastry:</u>
Volunteers:		
Male:	300	261
Female:	934	30
	-----	-----
Total:	1234	291
Recalls for Large Film:	7.7%	3.6%
Active disease:	2	1
Inactive disease:	30	2

As the public survey at Aylesham was associated with a survey of the personnel at the coal mines, the number of men in the public survey was lower than the females.

INFLUENZA affected the district as in other areas in East Kent with invasion in October and decline in December. It was a dangerous disease when in association with a staphylococcal infection, or with some existing condition such as heart disease, but in itself was mild in character and quickly over.

UNIDENTIFIED OUTBREAK. On a Monday in mid September, a factory employing 200, mostly females, had an outbreak of puzzling illness. The factory doctor had been called. He sought the help of deputy M.O.H. Dr. Blakeney, who investigated. Clinically the illness was a complaint of tremor, shivering and weakness at the knees, transient disorder of vision even to blurring or

blindness and a queer sensation in the nose. On examination the only sign was pallor and in a few a rise of 1° F. in body temperature. Most recovered and returned to work. Eighty out of the 200 were involved. Six reported more than once and nine being considered ill enough to send home. There are three main work-rooms in the factory and it was recognised that all those ill came from the machine room. The age distribution of cases corresponded with that of workers in this room. Cases occurred in those using and those not using the canteen.

The room involved is large and the factory heating system was being renewed at the time and was not in use. The room temperature was 52° F. at 8 a.m. and had risen to 60° F. in the evening in the coldest room by solar heat. It was noted that windows though plentiful were closed except for a few exceptions, and the air when visited at 5 - 30 p.m. was stuffy. These were ideal conditions for the spread of droplet infection.

There had been a factory outing to Southend on the previous Saturday two days before but not all cases had been on it.

Advice given was that until the heating was re-installed and ventilation improved, all windows must be opened at tea or meal breaks and fans brought into use to circulate air near steam cabinets.

Follow up on the next day disclosed only three cases during the day and two not returned from the previous day and subsequent follow up showed no further cases.

In retrospect one thinks of the possibility of some unrecognised source of carbon monoxide either from a machine or in the work on the heating system as mild C.O. poisoning could have accounted for the situation.

Inoculation and Vaccination against Infectious Disease.

The details of progress by the County clinic services and by the family doctors in protection against infectious disease has been supplied by the County M.O.H. It is summarised in the tables. Against SMALLPOX there was some loss of ground with new vaccinations representing only 39% of the intake of children by birth. This is a drop of 9% on the 1956 situation which followed a 10% drop in 1955 and is a dangerous circumstance if the disease is introduced by some traveller from abroad.

The attention given to poliomyelitis vaccination was bound to react on that given by parents to inoculations against diphtheria. 527 children born between 1947 and 1954 were protected against poliomyelitis during the year. This work was limited by the supply of vaccine and covered between 10% and 20% of the children.

The primary immunization against diphtheria covered the equivalent of 64% of the birth intake of children and the number of children fully protected (injections within 5 years) waned to 2,570 or around the 50% mark. The 1,083 with waning protection (injections more than 5 years ago) represents another 15% - 20%. The district is therefore in the unhappy position of having a lot of unprotected children in whom diphtheria can find harbourage to the danger of all, if it is re-introduced. Those who remember diphtheria will find this disconcerting.

Housing Matters: It is not unusual for me to be approached by the really difficult re-housing cases when they have failed to be satisfied by other approaches. Sometimes it is possible to help the Housing department to confirm details and put the case in a right perspective. It is I am sure the correct way to deal with a medical case for re-housing that the medical officer of health should be asked to give his advice. My medical colleagues generally raise cases through me, unless it is in the category of case that won't be happy 'till he gets it, when a note given to the patient may be the action taken. Chest clinic cases are always referred. One is occasionally written to by someone who is a Council tenant and finds it easier to write to the medical officer of health than tell the rent collector of some defect in the property. Fortunately these cases are few.

As the slum dwellings are being dealt with as individual houses a number remain on the condemned list but are not closed or demolished because suitable alternative accommodation for the occupants is not available in the locality. The Council are now seeking to correct the absence of dwellings for elderly persons by planning groups of these in main village centres. Although it may appear to be undesirable to uproot some elderly person or couple from a rural slum in which contentment seems to rest in the dwelling, there is much unnoticed and barely tolerated discomfort which is only expressed between October and April from which such tenants need to be relieved by re-housing in accordance with our duty under the Housing Acts.

In calling on the owner to repair a property the public health inspector came up against the problem of an elderly occupant who could not with safety remain in the house during the work of repair. This cannot be an unusual situation nationally although unusual locally, and help was sought from the County M.O.H. as Welfare Officer to help with temporary accommodation during the repair work.

In last year's annual report the problem of condensation in Council houses was discussed. During the year an illustrated pamphlet was prepared and distributed to Council tenants describing the source of the condensing moisture and how to ventilate it away. The trouble seems to have been helped by this little bit of health education.

Sewage and Sewerage: During the year a case was stated for an early start on the Woodnesborough sewerage scheme, with subsequent approval.

The Eastry sewage treatment scheme was completed during the year, and in Wingham connections to the new sewer progressed slowly.

Attention was called to the need for the provision of washing and changing facilities for sewage works personnel. It is surprising that such provisions are not included in the plans at the approval stage and that Consulting Engineers omit such arrangements in a scheme dealing with foul discharges and movement of sludge.

A complaint was received of fouling of the beach in Sandwich Bay by sewage solids. This was followed up in a Westerly direction with inconclusive enquiries but satisfactory results.

Water Supply: There had been a progressive dryness in the district up to 1958 and during June 1957 we were very near to a drought. This caused a heavy agricultural demand for water with falls in mains pressure in the Ash area. Water begets need and a service is appreciated most when it threatens to fail. A number of complaints were received but an approach to the Engineer of the Thanet Water Board disclosed that he was already active in organising a boost by making an emergency link with the main through Wingham. Other permanent arrangements were planned and have since been carried out.

Although 99% of the dwellings in the district are on mains supply a number of the dwellings which are not do not have an entirely satisfactory alternative supply. The Chief Public Health Inspector samples these as required and has brought forward to you cases where mains extensions are feasible. The occupants of the dwellings are always advised on safety measures if the water supply is at all doubtful in quality.

Other Matters. Samples of fertilizers were sent to the Public Health Laboratory in connection with research being done by Col. Walker. It is worth mentioning that a number of substances used as garden fertilizer have been found on occasions to contain Salmonella organisms capable of causing food poisoning if allowed to grow in suitable circumstances. Housewives should be warned to wash hands carefully when they come in from gardening before making the family meal - which they will do anyway, but there is no harm in mentioning.

A complaint was received of smell originating from the burning of waste from a plastic factory. This was investigated and the factory director co-operated fully in providing samples

of the waste and chemical formulas of substances used. The problem proved to be highly technical and the Alkali Inspectorate was approached.

The effluvia from the Chimney was heavy enough to fall to near ground level and to find its way into the cellar and ground floor rooms of nearby houses, and its character gave rise to symptoms of nausea and feelings approaching retching in both children and adults.

Agreement was reached with the factory director to discontinue burning the waste and the problem of disposal of waste taken up with the District Surveyor. The unfortunate side of the matter is that it is a clean and innocuous waste until it is burned.

You are asked to refer now to the tables and to the detail of the Chief Public Health Inspector's report, and it is hoped that the re-arrangement of the report has made it reasonably tolerable.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Tabulations.

Population Mid 1957 - 24,050

Area of the District - 54,276 acres.

The following are the vital statistics for 1957:-

Live Births: Male - 206 Female - 190 Total: 396
(18 outside marriage)

[illegible]

Infant Deaths: Male - 4 Female - 8 Total: 12
(under 1 year of age) (1 outside marriage)

Infant Deaths: Male - 4 Female - 3 Total: 7
(under 4 weeks) (1 outside marriage)

Deaths: Male - 210 Female - 178 Total: 388
(all ages)

Estimated Mid Year population: 24,050

Comparability Factors for Births 1.18 for Deaths 0.61

These figures give the following crude rates and corrected rates:-

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population 16.47 (England and Wales 16.1)

Corrected Birth rate	19.42	births per 1,000 population.
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Crude Death rate per 1,000 population 16.13 (England and Wales 11.5)

Corrected Death rate 9.84 deaths per 1,000
population.

Perinatal Mortality (Neonatal Deaths 43 and Stillbirths per 1,000 total births) (England and Wales 36.2)

Causes of Death

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	4	3
" Other.	-	1
All other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases.	1	-
Malignant Neoplasms. Stomach.	12	12
" " Lungs & Bronchus.	15	13
" " Breast.	7	3
" " Uterus.	3	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	35	36
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia.	1	1
Diabetes.	3	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	50	62
Coronary Disease. Angina.	38	38
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	9	3
Other Heart Diseases.	88	94
Other Circulatory Diseases.	21	25
Influenza.	7	9
Pneumonia.	24	27
Bronchitis.	15	17
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	3	7
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum.	5	8
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.	-	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	7	9
Hyperplasia of Prostrate.	2	2
Pregnancy. Childbirth. Abortion.	-	-
Congenital Malformation.	3	4
Other defined and Ill defined Diseases.	25	27
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	4	3
All other Accidents.	5	8
Suicide.	1	3
Homicide or War Operations.	-	-
Total Male:	210	207
Total Female:	178	216
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>388</u>	<u>423</u>

Infant Deaths

Cause of Death:	Under 24 hrs.		- 1 week		- 1 month		- 1 year		TOTAL:	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Congenital Defect	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3
Prematurity	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Blood Disease of Newborn	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Neglect at Birth	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Birth Injury	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infection of Respiratory System.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
TOTALS:	3	2	1	1	-	1	-	4	4	8

Total: 12

Infectious Disease.

The following tabulations show the incidence and age distribution of cases during 1957:-

	Quarters of Year				By Age Groups						Totals:	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+		1957	1956
Scarlet Fever.	8	5	1	9	2	13	6	2	-		23	4
Measles.	154	94	26	1	97	160	15	3	-		275	184
Whooping Cough.	4	13	54	-	38	31	2	-	-		71	28
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	7	3	1	1	2	1		8	7
Dysentery.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-		1	120
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	2	5	1	1	1	4	-		7	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-		1	-
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	5	4	9	-	-	1	-	13	4		18	20
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-		1	3

Tuberculosis Detail.

Age distribution of notifications of all forms of tuberculosis:-

Under 15	Male	-	Female	1	
15 - 25	"	2	"	3	
25 - 45	"	2	"	1	
Over 45	"	9	"	1	
<hr/>					
Totals:	Male	13	Female	6	Total: 19.
<hr/>					
Respiratory	Male	12	Female	6	Total: 18.
Other Forms	"	1	"	-	Total: 1.

Number on T.P. Register at 31/12/57.

Respiratory	Male	129	Female	116
Other Forms	"	28	"	32

Figures for 1956.

Respiratory	Male	121	Female	116
Other Forms	"	26	"	33

Poliomyelitis Vaccination 1957.

born in	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total:
	108	104	106	89	41	22	31	26	-	-	-	527

Diphtheria Immunisation - Year ending 31/12/57.

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Primary Inoculations.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	10	3	7	21	160	23	241
Re-informing Inoculations.	-	1	3	15	86	58	6	8	51	95	5	-	2	-	-	330

Vaccination against Smallpox - Year ending 31/12/57.

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Before 1943	Total
Primary vaccinations.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	56	90	2	156
Re-vaccination.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5

State of Diphtheria Protection.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January 1943).

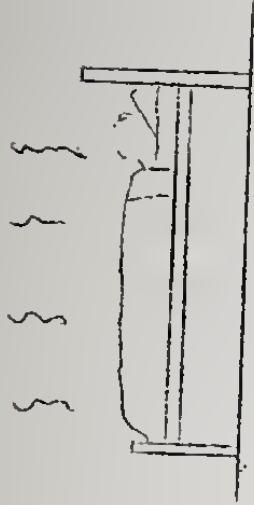
Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total.
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1953-1957.	102	111	95	116	256	239	171	176	176	247	214	238	221	185	23	2570
1952 or earlier.	198	133	156	136	96	43	89	118	98	16	-	-	-	-	-	1083

SOURCES OF MOISTURE WHICH
CAUSE CONDENSATION:

US

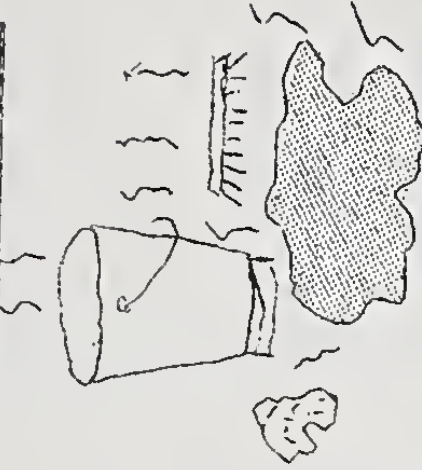
T H E C U R E :

LET IT OUT



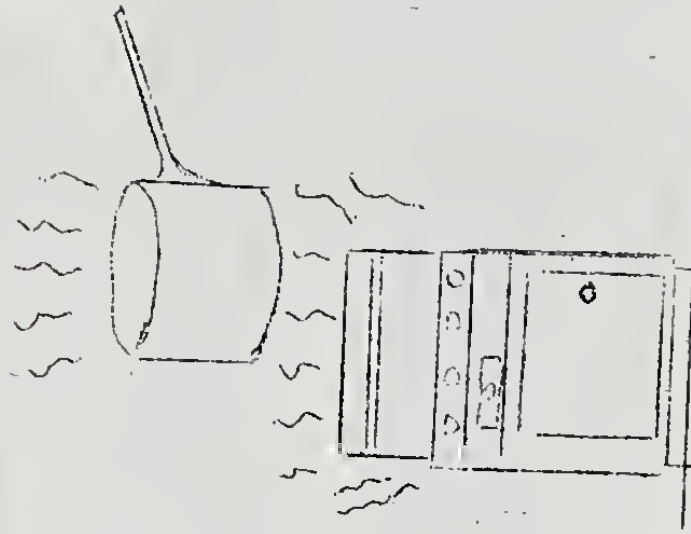
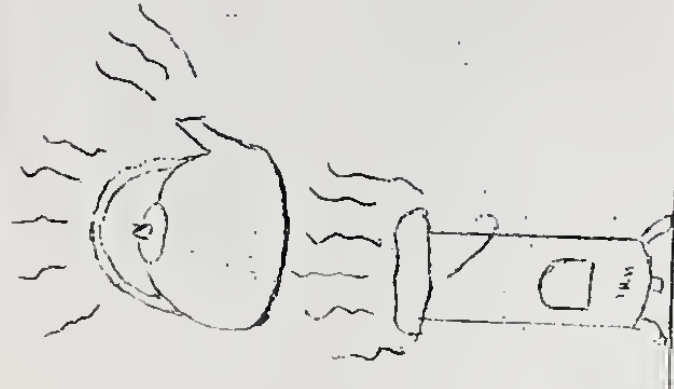
The body is constantly giving off moisture in the breath and from the skin by day and by night.

FLOOR WASHING.



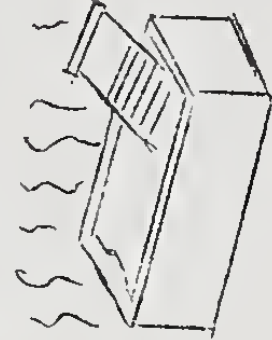
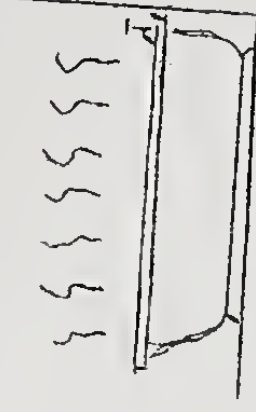
Wet floors and clothes must dry - the water goes into the air.

COOKING & HEATING.

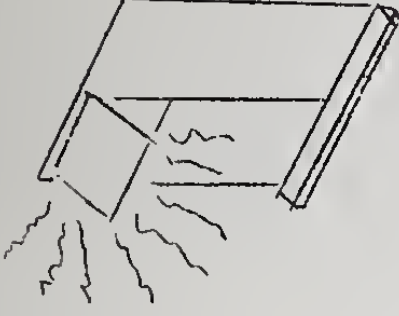


Steam from cooking.
Gas and paraffin flames give off water.

WASHING.



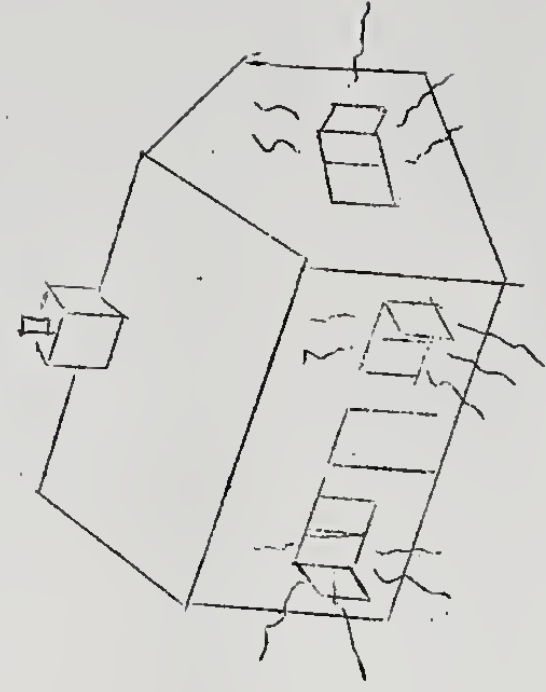
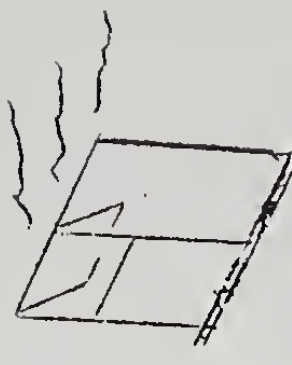
Washing and boiling give off steam.



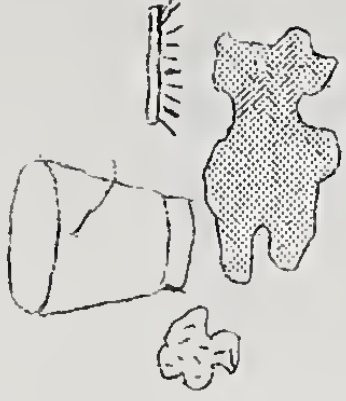
Ventilate the kitchen when cooking or clothes washing.



Ventilate the bedrooms at night.



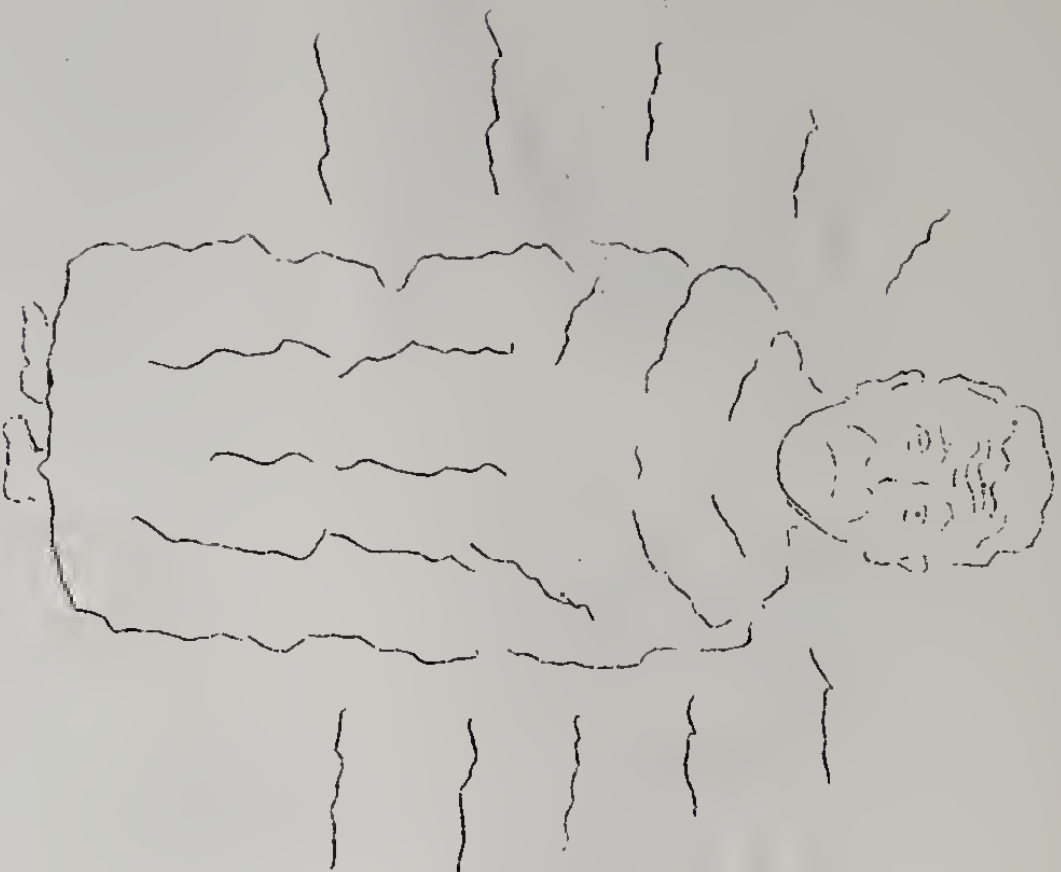
Give your home a good blow through every day.



Open the windows after floor scrubbing.

If you leave your home all day to go to work, leave the doors open between rooms and leave at least 2 safe windows open in opposite sides of the house.

How do I keep warm in winter with all
this ventilation?



Getting rid of the moisture by ventilation helps the house to warm up quicker when you want it warm.

You don't need the windows open all the time, especially in the evenings when you want to "fugg up" round the fireplace in the sittingroom or when you are undressing for bed or dressing in the morning.

But don't forget that the "fugg" is moisture laden and must be let out of the house before the walls cool down, or else it will condense on the walls overnight and windows and walls will be wet in the morning.

So leave a window open somewhere nearby at night and most of all open a window in the bedroom just before you jump into bed, or after you have tucked up the kiddies in their beds. You can close it in the morning before dressing if you feel it draughty and open it again when dressed.

Don't let's be Spartan, let's just be DRY.

M. S. HARVEY

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Dover Road,
SANDWICH, Kent.

November, 1957.

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

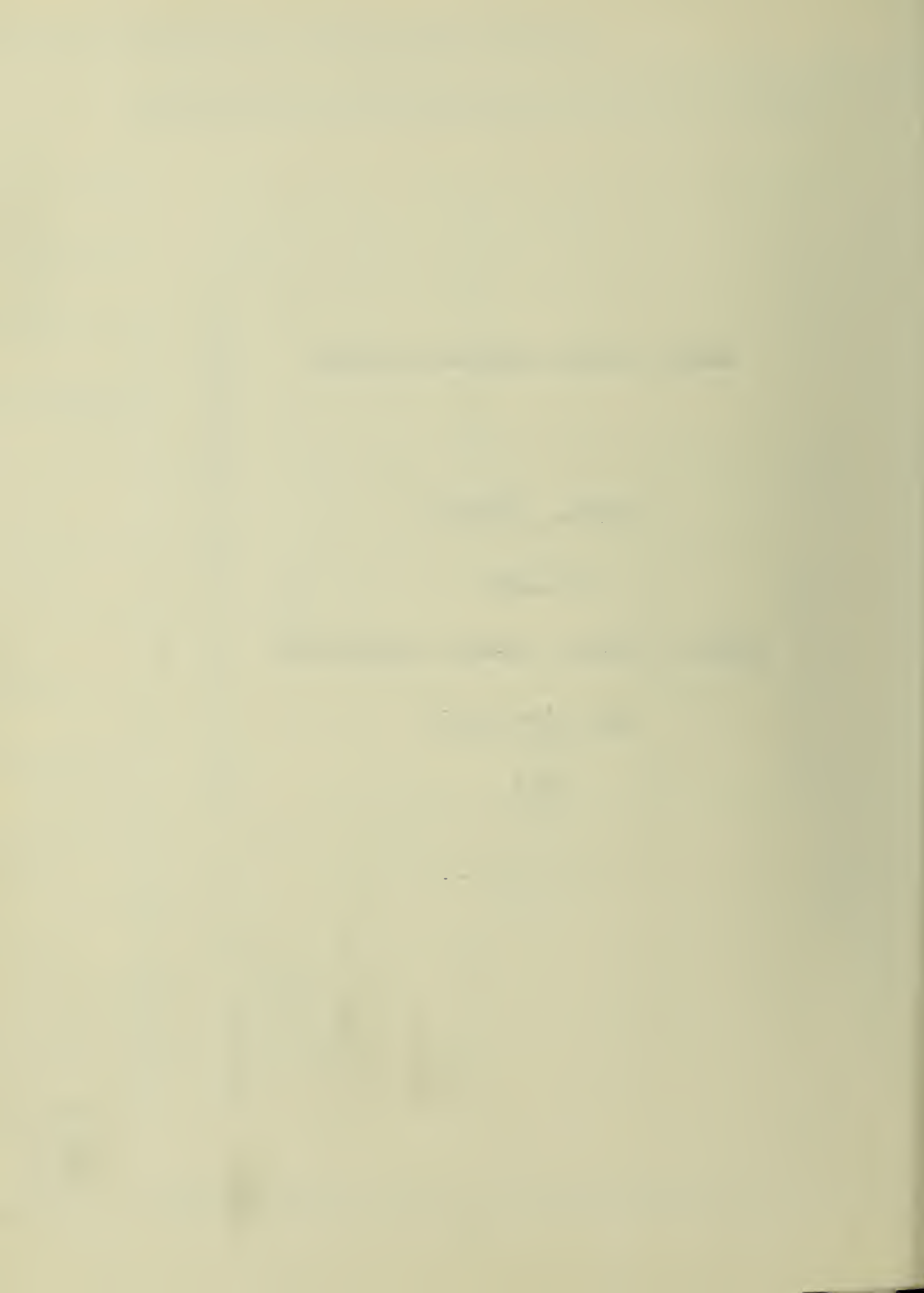
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1957



To the Chairman and Members of
the Eastry Rural District Council

- - - - -

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on circumstances in the Rural District and work for which your Public Health Inspectors have been responsible during the year 1957.

As figures in the Report record, it has again been a year of progress, limited only by the time available. In recent years the duties of the Department have increased from time to time as the result of new legislation and delegated powers, and although it has been possible to absorb minor functions, the cumulative effect now makes it increasingly difficult to maintain the level of routine work. Routine inspections and sampling are not spectacular and yet they constitute an essential feature of public health work and any reduction below the present standard would be most undesirable.

I should like to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement received from the Chairman and Members of the Council during the year and the continued help and co-operation from all members of the staff.

W. H. SAYERS

Senior Public Health Inspector.

S T A F F

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. H. SAYERS.	Cert. S.I.B.
	Cert. Meat & Food Inspection.
	Cert. Smoke Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

F. M. FLACK.	Cert. S.I.B.
	Cert. Meat & Food Inspection.

Clerk:

MISS E. HAYWARD.

Rodent Operatives:

P. U. LAWRENCE.

H. E. HARLE.

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SECTION A.

HOUSING

In the Rural District the majority of houses included in the Slum Clearance Programme are occupied by elderly people who have little desire to leave their homes and, therefore, slum prevention is perhaps more urgent than slum clearance. The greater part of the time available for housing work during the year has accordingly been devoted to improvements and repairs, although the Slum Clearance Programme is progressing steadily and 70% of the houses concerned have been dealt with.

There has been little reduction in the number of applications for Improvement Grants and the scheme is proving to be a major factor in raising housing standards throughout the district and preventing future slums.

The Rent Act, 1957, which came into force on 6th July, 1957, is designed primarily to regulate arrangements between landlords and tenants, with the general aim of securing better use of existing housing accommodation and enabling rented houses to be put and kept in repair. The immediate role of the Local Authority is to supply information and act as arbitrator between landlord and tenant where application is made for a Certificate of Disrepair.

Experience to date suggests that the Act has set tenants a task quite beyond their capabilities in requiring them to prepare a schedule of defects and both landlords and tenants are well advised to make every endeavour to reach agreement before setting into motion the complicated machinery of the Act. From the examples given on Form G, however, it appears that minor defects only may be included and major disrepair will still require action by local authorities under other legislation.

Information available on rent increases in the district suggests that the Act will at least be successful in providing the income necessary to maintain houses in good repair. This removes a factor which has restrained action on housing repairs for many years and should encourage readier use of Local Authorities' powers under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Housing Statistics.

(1) Slum Clearance.

No. of houses reported under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	9
No. of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	2
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	14
No. of houses closed in pursuance of formal Undertakings	...	...	...	...	2

(2) Improvement Grants.

Total No. of houses in respect of which Grants have been approved since July, 1954	...	...	274
Total expenditure involved	...	...	£165,000
Total of Grants approved	...	...	£66,000

The following are details of Grants approved during the year 1957:-

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) No. of dwellings in respect of which
Grants were approved | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| Owner/occupied | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Agricultural dwellings | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
- (2) Total cost of schemes approved: £42,007
(Average: £636 per dwelling)
- (3) Amount ascribed to improvements: £34,416
- (4) Amount ascribed to repairs: £7,591
(Average: £115 per dwelling)
- (5) Total of Grants approved: £16,553
(Average: £250 per dwelling)
- (6) The maximum grant of £400 was approved in 5 cases.

The following is a summary of the major improvements included in schemes approved:-

Provision of bathrooms	...	...	...	...	64
" " water closets	...	...	...	...	61
" " hot water systems	...	...	...	...	62
" " drainage	...	...	...	...	40
" " ventilated foodstores	...	...	...	...	54
" " fuel stores	...	...	...	...	22
" " new windows	...	...	...	...	35
" " additional rooms	...	...	...	...	8
Internal wiring for electricity	...	...	...	...	14

(3) Rent Act, 1957.

Certificates of Disrepair

(1) No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	...	29
(2) No. of Undertakings given by landlords						14
(3) No. of Certificates issued						
(a) In respect of some defects	...	...	...	...	...	10
(b) In respect of all defects	...	...	...	...	...	1

No applications have been received for cancellation of Certificates,

No. of visits in connection with Rent Act	73
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(4) Overcrowding.

By arrangement with the Housing Manager all applications for Council Houses are examined as received and visited where overcrowding seems to be likely.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	8
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	57
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	6

(5) Repair of Unfit Houses.

One hundred and ninety-three houses were visited in connection with housing defects and by the end of the year, ninety-five had been rendered fit as the result of informal action.

(1) Water Supply.

Under the Kent Water Act, 1955, which took effect on 1st April, 1956, the Rural District is supplied by three Water Undertakings, viz:-

- (a) The Thanet Water Board.
- (b) The Mid-Kent Water Company.
- (c) The Deal Water Undertaking.

Supplies are drawn from deep wells in the chalk, pumping stations of the Thanet Water Board being situated in the parishes of Acol, Minster, Wingham and Woodnesborough.

In the early summer, difficulties arose in parts of the parish of Ash from extremely low pressure of water during the day-time, due mainly to the greatly increased demand from agricultural consumers. Emergency action was taken by the Thanet Water Board and mains are being laid to ensure adequate supplies in the future.

Over 99% of dwelling houses in the district now have piped supplies and eighteen samples taken from mains in various parts of the district showed the water to be thoroughly satisfactory in quality.

During the year discussions took place with officers of the Thanet Water Board with a view to formulating an agreed policy on the maintenance of sanitary conditions within the gathering grounds of its sources.

As a measure of progress it is interesting to note that the number of dwellings dependent upon well water has been reduced from seven hundred and twenty-seven in 1937 to forty-three at the present date. Twenty-four of these sources were sampled and in eleven which were found to be unfit, users were advised to boil all drinking water until a safe supply can be obtained.

The following table shows the present position in the different parished:-

WATER SUPPLY

Parish:	No. of Dwelling Houses.	No. of houses with piped supply into houses.	No. of houses with main supply by standpipes.	No. of houses without pipe supply.
ACOL	70	65	5	-
ASH	818	795	17	6
AYLESHAM	1074	1074	-	-
EASTRY	533	523	8	2
EYTHORNE	576	569	7	-
GOODNESTONE	138	138	-	-
MINSTER	729	726	1	2
MONKTON	139	139	-	-
NONINGTON	219	215	3	1
NORTHBOURNE	270	269	-	1
PRESTON	209	198	8	3
RIPPLE	95	95	-	-
SARRE	42	38	4	-
SHOLDEN	169	168	-	1
STAPLE	144	140	-	4
STOURMOUTH	89	86	3	-
ST. NICHOLAS	213	203	3	7
SUTTON	233	228	2	3
TILMANSTONE	111	111	-	-
WINGHAM	429	413	11	5
WOODNESBORO'	330	314	12	4
WORTH	240	235	1	4
TOTAL	6870	6742	85	43

(2) Drainage & Sewerage.

During the year the sewerage scheme for the village of Eastry was completed, and following that of Wingham in the previous year, main drainage is now available in a substantial part of the district.

In view of the years of agitation that preceded these schemes, it is somewhat disappointing to record that less than 50% of properties in these villages still remain unconnected to the sewers.

Pail Closets.

In my last report reference was made to pail closets and I would once again draw the Council's attention to this subject.

In 1937 there were in the Rural District 2,215 pail closets and by the end of 1957 the total had been reduced to 1,290. This reduction has been aided in recent years by an enlightened policy of grants and loans and during the past twelve months more pail closets were abolished than in any previous year.

These figures show good progress yet who would deny that the current conception of the necessities of decent living undoubtedly include the provision of a water closet and drainage for every family. I would, therefore, urge the Council to seriously consider, with such aid as may be obtained through the Kent General Powers Bill and other legislation, a programme aimed at the ultimate abolition of all pail closets, not only in the sewered areas but throughout the Rural District.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:-

No. of visits in connection with drainage work	...	650
No. of water tests	... ..	253
No. of mirror tests	... ..	170
Existing houses provided with drainage systems	...	120
Existing houses, drainage altered or repaired	...	70
Existing houses, connected to sewers	... ..	133
Cesspools constructed	... ..	32
Septic tanks constructed	... ..	19
Pail closets converted to water closets	... ..	135

(3) Moveable Dwellings.

There are seven camping sites in the district which are licensed annually to accommodate 482 moveable dwellings. This figure includes 40 residential caravans but the number actually occupied in this manner continues to remain well below the maximum permitted. In addition to sites, six licences were granted in respect of individual residential caravans. All licences restrict the type of dwellings to approved trailer caravans and tents and a steady improvement in conditions and amenities has been maintained.

From time to time, small groups of gypsies in gaily painted horse-drawn caravans pass through the district, staying a few days at regular places and then travelling on. When visited they are invariably clean and tidy and present no trouble to the Department. In contrast is their modern counterpart the "didikoy", who usually lives in a tent or shack and exists by collecting scrap metal and doing occasional field work. He is badgered from one district to another and can rarely stay long enough in one place to gain residential qualifications for a Council House, indeed, it is doubtful whether the majority genuinely do wish to change their mode of living. It is not surprising, therefore, that even the most tactful approach is often met with resentment and abuse.

The Health Officer has a most distasteful task in harrying these people and yet it is only by constant vigilance that the district can be kept free of permanent colonies.

During the past year it was necessary to take legal proceedings in respect of a large family living in a caravan. A small fine was imposed on the owner of the land and eventually the family moved on to another district.

(4) Hop Pickers' Camps.

Six Hop Pickers' camps were again occupied during the season. Each camp was visited two months before picking commenced to allow time for the completion of any works required and a total of eighty-eight inspections were made. Conditions were generally satisfactory and a definite improvement in the manner in which the camps were maintained and used was noticed.

(5) Knacker's Yard.

There is one knacker's yard in the district situated at Ashley in the Parish of Sutton.

The animals dealt with during the year were:-

Horses	316
Cows	530
Sheep	18
Goats	2

I would once again draw attention to the fact that meat from a knacker's yard is not intended for human consumption and is therefore not subject to inspection nor is it now required to be stained before leaving the premises. The risks to public health from this source are obvious and there is an urgent need for legislation to ensure that no meat from a knacker's yard could possibly be used for human consumption, at least unless it has been rendered safe.

(6) Shops Acts.

There are 194 premises in the district to which the Shops Acts apply. The County Council has delegated to the District Council enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950, with the exception of provisions relating to the suspension of closing hours and street trading by young persons.

Thirty-seven visits were made in connection with the Act and minor infringements discovered were remedied by informal action.

(7) Rodent Control.

Two full time Operators are employed but in summer when work permits, one is made available to the Surveyor's Department.

The Council provide free treatment of private dwelling houses and undertake treatment of business premises at an inclusive charge of 9/-d. per hour.

Particular attention is devoted to survey which is essential to effective rodent control and in addition to regular inspection of the Council's refuse tips and sewage disposal works, colliery surface workings are inspected once a quarter and every agricultural holding in the district at least once a year.

In accordance with recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, the rodent operatives are provided with rubber boots and disinfectant and the routine procedure is to disinfect boots and equipment before leaving premises on which livestock are kept.

During the year representations were made to the Ministry for early notice of outbreaks of Foot & Mouth Disease in order that arrangements can be made to limit the movements of operatives.

Summary of Work for the Year 1957.

INSPECTIONS.

No. of Properties inspected.	<u>Local Authority Property.</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Agri- cultural Property.</u>	<u>Business Premises.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(a) Following Complaint	5	160	40	30	235
No. found to be infested:	5	143	38	30	216
(b) In course of Survey:	2	128	584	23	737
No. found to be infested:	2	68	144	12	226

TREATMENTS.

(a) Rats:

<u>Major:</u>	4	5	72	3	84
<u>Minor:</u>	6	153	21	17	197

(b) Mice:

<u>Major:</u>	-	11	3	9	23
<u>Minor:</u>	-	18	1	7	26

(8) Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

There are sixty-seven premises in the district to which the Factories Acts apply, of which five only do not employ mechanical power. The majority are small local workshops such as bakehouses, garages and builders yards, the exceptions being a sausage factory, a large laundry and a clothing factory.

Means of Escape in case of Fire.

The Local Authority have a duty under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, to decide in the case of factories to which the section applies, whether they should issue a Certificate that the factory is provided with adequate means of escape in case of fire. All factories concerned in the district have been inspected and the necessary certificates issued.

The following tables give details of inspections carried out:-

1 - INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	62	85	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	67	89	-	-

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspectr. | By H.M. Inspectr.		
Want of cleanliness.	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences.					
(a) Insufficient.	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	1		-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	-	-

(1) Food Hygiene.

Application of the Food Hygiene Regulations to the various premises concerned has continued but it is not a subject in which the degree of progress can readily be measured.

Structural requirements and the provision of fitments can more easily be enforced and judged than provisions relating to personal habits, and yet the presence of gleaming chrome and stainless steel though welcome, does not necessarily indicate a higher standard of food hygiene.

Food poisoning now appears to be largely a problem of salmonella infection, the sources of which are widely distributed throughout the animal world. A link in the chain of infection leading to food poisoning can be broken by cold storage and it is therefore encouraging to record that an increasing number of food traders in the district are employing refrigeration.

After many years, the Council's representations to the National Coal Board regarding the condition of Petteshanger Colliery Canteen have been successful and the construction of a new canteen has commenced.

There are 245 premises in the district to which the Food Hygiene Regulations apply and a total of 700 visits were made during the year. The various types of businesses concerned are as follows:-

Bakehouses.	17	Fishmongers.	3
Restaurants, etc.	29	Greengrocers.	5
Factory Canteens.	6	Confectioners.	19
School Canteens.	14	Public Houses.	66
Butchers Shops.	16		
" Mobile.	2		
Grocers Shops.	73		

Twenty-one of these premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food for sale, as follows:-

Manufacture of sausages, etc.	Butchers Shops.	14
- do -	Factory.	1
Cooking Hams.	Grocers Shops.	3
Frying Fish.	Shops.	3

(2) Milk Supply.

There are twenty-nine milk distributors registered in the district, two having dairy premises and eight trading from adjoining districts.

By an order made under Section 23, Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, the district is part of a specified area and all milk sold by retail for human consumption is specially designated, i.e. Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

The following licences were granted for the sale of designated milks:-

Tuberculin Tested:	(Dealers)	14
" "	(Supplementary)	8
Pasteurised:	(Dealers)	15
"	(Supplementary)	8
Sterilised:	(Dealers)	3

Details of samples taken are as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested:	8 Samples.	Three samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.
T.T. (Pasteurised):	14 Samples.	One sample failed the Phosphatase Test.
Pasteurised:	31 Samples.	All samples satisfied the prescribed tests.
Samples taken for Biological Examination:	2	Negative.

(3) Ice-cream.

There are seventy-two premises in the district registered for the sale of ice-cream and in all of these the ice-cream is pre-wrapped. Supplies are obtained from a few large manufacturers outside the district and in view of this the number of samples taken has been reduced.

Results of Sampling.

<u>Number taken:</u>	<u>Grade I.</u>	<u>Grade II.</u>	<u>Grade III.</u>	<u>Grade IV.</u>
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(4) Meat Inspection.

There are only two small licensed slaughterhouses in the district and both were in regular use throughout the year. The maintenance of efficient inspections continues to demand time out of all proportion to the small number of animals killed.

100% post mortem inspection is conducted in accordance with Memo 3/Meat and although a thorough routine examination is made of all beef carcasses for evidence of cysticercus bovis, no cases were found during the year.

All unsound meat and offal is stained green before leaving the premises, small quantities being destroyed and large amounts being sent to the glue works.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	24	-	7	507	240	-
Number inspected.	24	-	7	507	240	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	4	-	-	21	11	-
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.66%	-	-	4.1%	4.6%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	2	-	-	-	20	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.33%	-	-	-	8.33%	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total weight of carcasses, parts of carcasses
and offal rejected for all diseases

	Tons	Cwts.	Qts.	lbs.
Carcases	-	-	-	-
Parts of Carcasses ...	-	2	2	17
Offal	-	1	1	12
TOTAL	-	4	0	1

In addition to meat surrendered at slaughterhouses the following food was inspected at the request of traders and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:-

Canned Food.

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	10 tins.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	11 "
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	60 "
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	19 "
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	9 "
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	20 "

Other Foods.

Ham	...	...	...	...	...	33½ lbs. (4 tins)
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	26 "
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	35 "
Pork knuckles	...	...	...	...	...	6½ "
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	77 "
Beef dripping	...	...	...	...	...	28 "

(1) The Cinematograph Acts, 1909 & 1952.

There is one cinema only in the district, at Aylesham, which is licensed annually by the Council. Regular inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with the conditions of Licence and the requirements of the Cinematograph (Safety) Regulations, 1955. A satisfactory certificate on the condition of the electrical installations was received in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 27.

(2) Heating Appliances (Fireguard) Regulations, 1953.

The above regulations require fireguards of a specified standard to be fitted to all domestic gas fires, electric fires and oil heaters. During the year check tests have been made of heating appliances exposed for sale in the district.

(3) Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There are no licensed pet shops in the district and no action under the Act has been necessary during the year.

(4) The Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.

From the 1st August, 1957, the Council received delegation of the County Council's functions with respect to the inspection and licensing of waste food boiling plants under the above named Order. Inspections have been made of all plants concerned and eleven licences issued to operate plant and equipment.

(5) Civil Defence.

The Senior Public Health Inspector is responsible for a number of functions in the Rural District including Billeting, Emergency Feeding, Rest Centres and Burial of the Dead.

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